

Robert Murdoch



Robert Murdoch, the fifth child of John Murray and Isabella Crawford Murdoch, was born in Heber City, Utah on September 12, 1872. His grandparents were James and Mary Murray Murdoch and Andrew and Margaret McClure Crawford. His brother Brigham, who was two years older, recalled that Robert, nicknamed "Boot," was a happy and much-loved brother. He was closely surrounded and looked after by three sisters, three brothers, and many other loved ones, who made sure that his preschool and childhood days were happy ones. As he reached young adulthood, Robert actively participated in the dances and plays that provided much of the entertainment in Heber City and other towns in the valley. Robert and Brigham were both employed

at the mines in Park City. When Brigham married Blanche Alexander in December of 1891, they invited "Boot" to live with them in Park City, where they would be close to their work. Blanche's younger sister, Luella Alexander, also spent considerable time with them.

Blanche was a talented pianist, and she and Brig were in great demand to play music for dances in nearby communities. Robert shared these fun times with them. Blanche, Boot, and Luella all became seriously ill with the fever. Within a period of less than three months, Robert, Blanche, and Luella died of typhoid fever. The loss of these fine young people was deeply felt and remembered by their families and friends.

Robert died on September 3, 1893, and was buried in the Heber Cemetery. He would have been twenty-one years old on September 12. Maybell Moulton remembered the funeral procession. She also recalled that Florinda Cummings, one of Robert's friends, planted a lilac bush on his grave, and that many of the young ladies in Heber thought this was a special and long-lasting tribute.

Church records indicate that Robert was baptized by John McDonald on the third of September, 1882, confirmed by Thomas R. Hicken, and that on October 9, 1900, his brother James C. Murdoch served as proxy for his temple endowment work. We look forward to a time when we will know and love firsthand this special member of our "forever family."